

DISTANCE EDUCATION STUDENT SURVEY ON DE PROGRAM SLOs– FALL 2013

To assess our DE Program SLOs, a student survey was run two weeks prior to the end of Fall 2013 classes. DE SLO's assessed:

- Students completing a DE course will have the ability to submit an assignment online.
- Students completing a DE course will have the ability to complete a test/quiz online.
- Students completing a DE course will have the ability to communicate with their instructor using the course management tool online.
- Students completing a DE course will have the ability to communicate with other students using the course management tool online.

Executive Summary:

29% of DE students responded to our survey. (655 of 2,256 enrolled students in DE at the time of the survey) **Overall results were extremely positive.**

In terms of meeting our SLO's, the vast majority of students will continue on to their next online course, or transfer online program with ease. **They have the basic skills necessary to be successful.** What we cannot measure are the learning style accommodations they must make for online learning, time management and organization skills necessary for success. These are taught in our "SAC Student Online Orientation" and referenced by online faculty.

Although the **comments were overwhelmingly positive**, it was surprising to see negative write-in comments that were under the instructor control. There were multiple student comments regarding lack of faculty accessibility, communication, participation in the course, lack of faculty Blackboard skills, dead links and poor course organization. Many students have taken multiple online classes, and in comparison, state that their course could have been more interactive and attended to by the faculty member.

DE is addressing many faculty and student needs with our Online Teaching Certification modules and Online Student Orientation. All current DE faculty will have completed the new online teaching requirements by end of Fall 2014. We are also providing on-campus workshops on Basic Blackboard usage for students. DE is also working with ITS on Blackboard speed.

Survey Facts/Findings:

- **94%** strongly agree or agree that they are **able to upload a file to submit an assignment online**
- **96%** strongly agree or agree that they are **able to submit a test/quiz online.**
- **72%** strongly agree or agree that they are **able to communicate with their instructor online**
- **87%** strongly agree or agree that they are **able to communicate with their classmates online**
- **Tools used to communicate with the instructor were: email and discussion board.** Messages (email within Bb), blogs and the phone were also used to a lesser degree.
- **Similarly, tools used to communicate with classmates were: discussion board and email.** Messages (email within Bb), blogs and the phone were also used to a lesser degree.

- **Student Comments were overwhelmingly positive.** Many felt online courses were a “blessing” and would not have been able to take courses if not for the online offering. They felt the Blackboard was an easy tool to use and wanted more online course offerings.
- There were multiple comments that were a bit disheartening in the areas of:
 - Instructor Course Organization
 - Instructor accountability, participation, communication
 - Class Interaction
 - Blackboard speed (slow)

Selected Additional Student Comments:

- *“I am very confident in my ability to operate with online classes.”*
- *“Blackboard is a great resource. Very simple and effective learning style.”*
- *“Love the online classes!!! I would do a fully online degree if it was available.”*
- *“Some instructors are not as helpful as others.”*
- *“Meeting the instructor in person would also be helpful.”*
- *“I have found the online discussion boards to be very useful. I feel it is easier to communicate with other students on the discussion boards. The discussion boards have also allowed me to see different opinions and see different formats of assignments that I would not have been able to in a traditional classroom setting.”*
- *“For student who is the first time to use Black board, is needed more detail training.”*
- *“The only thing that bugged me about this particular online class was the instructor. He gave us the syllabus and never heard from him again. He never emailed us to see how we were doing. He completely forgot he had a class full of students.”*